

MLP 7222
PATENTAMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Consideration of this amendment after final is appropriate because it raises no new issues of patentability. The amendments are merely an attempt to simplify the application and address the concerns communicated by Examiner Saether during telephone interview with the undersigned on May 16, 2005.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A screw, comprising:
a shank;

a head at one end of the shank and a tip at the other end of the shank, the shank having an outer surface, the shank being of substantially constant maximum radius between the head and the tip, the tip tapering along its entire length to a point and being free of any screw threads;

a drill section formed on the shank and extending from the tip to an intermediate position between the tip and the head, the drill section having at least one flute defining a bore cutting edge at the tip of the shank which extends from a radially inner position with respect to said shank to the outer surface of the shank;

a screw thread formed on the outer surface between the head and the tip and terminating at the bore cutting edge of the tip, an entirety of the screw thread having a uniform height projecting from the outer surface of the shank; and

the flute further forming a flute edge which intersects the screw thread between the tip and the intermediate position to form at least one thread tapping surface on the screw thread where the a flute edge intersects the thread, so that when the screw is screwed into a work piece, the bore cutting edge drills a bore having a diameter substantially equal to the